

This was a tremendous step forward in the care of American veterans and the economic development of our country. It opened new doors to veterans and allowed them to reach their potential, and it injected into our economy talent, skills, and creativity.

We know this law better as the GI Bill. For 70 years, those words have evoked our commitment to the brave men and women who defend our shores and our freedoms. Today, I am proud to celebrate that history and contribute to that legacy.

I introduced the GI Internship Program Act to expand the Post-9/11 GI Bill in order to allow veterans to collect their benefits while participating in an internship program.

These internships, many with small businesses or manufacturers, will allow our veterans to learn the practical skills and to gain valuable experience, and they will help our employers overcome the skills gap and find uniquely talented proven leaders to hire. That is a win-win proposition for businesses and for veterans.

Seventy years ago, the original GI Bill opened new doors of opportunity and helped our country secure success in the second half of the American century.

Today, we need another concentrated effort to boost the talent and skills in our economy, and like always, I think our veterans are ready to answer the call.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. George Dillard, Peachtree City Christian Church, Peachtree City, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You with praise and thanksgiving because You are the giver and the sustainer of life.

We thank You for freedom; help us to use it well, to bless and not curse. We thank You for justice; help us to be righteous in its use. We thank You for an abundance of food; help us to be generous. We thank You for life; help us to give it the value it deserves. We thank You for Your truth; help us use it as a light to see the path back to You.

Bless the Members of this House with wisdom, and watch over those who

serve in our Armed Forces as they protect our liberty. Forgive us for the error of our ways. Thank You for the grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love that provide a path to You, through Jesus the Christ, our King.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TONKO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of our friend and ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Since Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Gaza has been a lawless region and, since 2007, has been under the rule of the U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization, Hamas. Hamas' sole reason for existence is to wipe Israel off the face of the planet.

Over these past few weeks, Hamas kidnapped and killed Gilad, Eyal, and Naftali—three Israeli teens—and launched hundreds of rockets at innocent Israeli civilian population centers, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. No nation would allow terrorists to take aim at its citizens so indiscriminately, and Israel cannot be expected to allow Hamas to continue this attack unabated.

The U.S. must support our ally, Israel, as she seeks to protect her citizens, and we must call for the PA to divorce itself from Hamas. No U.S. funding until Abu Mazen does so.

#### MAKING THE VISION A REALITY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, over the past few years, Buffalo's Inner Harbor

has undergone a startling transformation. This summer, Canalside will host over 1,000 public events, drawing in a million visitors.

The same possibility exists for Buffalo's Outer Harbor. The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation will host public meetings, starting tonight, to support public discussion about the future of the Outer Harbor.

The successful growth of Canalside has been attributed to Federal highway dollars and the New York Power Authority's \$279 million Federal relicensing settlement, which is now financing the reconstruction of Buffalo's long-neglected waterfront.

Likewise, putting in place the infrastructure to bring western New Yorkers to the water's edge at the Outer Harbor will open it up to public access and private development. A good start would be to remove the structurally deficient Skyway Bridge and to build a new pedestrian-friendly Buffalo Harbor Bridge, which is now in its final stages of environmental review.

Buffalo has several waterfront master plans. Each say the same thing: Get to work.

The attraction to Buffalo's waterfront is the water itself. It is our responsibility to build the infrastructure to make that vision a reality.

#### WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, there is no bigger problem facing our country right now than getting hardworking Americans back to work with the skills they need to compete in a very tough economy.

The biggest travesty is that June marked the 49th month in the last 50 months when more people gave up looking for a job than found one, and that the only increase in hiring is for part-time employees.

That is why the House will vote this week on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, based on the foundation of the SKILLS Act we passed earlier this year.

This commonsense solution eliminates more than a dozen failing programs, saves taxpayer dollars, and provides skills training for in-demand jobs. Such key, in-demand jobs are needed in my hometown of St. Louis, Missouri.

It is time we start investing in nurses, medical assistants, manufacturing technicians, and computer support specialists and stop wasting billions of dollars every year on ineffective government programs that do little to train individuals with the skills they need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for more opportunity, "yes" for more jobs, and "yes" for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.